



NEWS RELEASE

GOVERNOR'S COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE

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BREDESEN ISSUES TEMPORARY REPRIEVE IN WORKMAN CASE

DECISION MADE FOLLOWING RECOMMENDATION FROM ATTORNEY GENERAL

Nashville, TN - Governor Phil Bredesen today issued a four-month temporary reprieve in the execution of Philip Workman originally scheduled to occur on September 24th. The reprieve will expire on January 15. The Governor issued the following statement in conjunction with his decision:

"The Attorney General recently informed me of a federal criminal investigation underway that may be related to this case. As a result, today I am issuing a postponement of Philip Workman's execution until this investigation is completed and we can assess its relevance to the case.

So long as there are outstanding issues that may be related to this case, the only proper thing to do is to wait until those questions have been answered. I am a supporter of the death penalty, but committed that it be carried out in a judicious manner."

The reprieve signed by Bredesen Monday, in effect, suspends plans for Workman's execution until January 15, allowing time for the criminal investigation to be completed and assessed. At that time, depending on the outcome of the investigation and analysis of its impact on this case, the Attorney General could seek a new execution date from the State Supreme Court. The decision to issue the reprieve was made at the recommendation of Attorney General Paul Summers.

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